



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

April 7, 2006

News Release

Carrizo Springs man arrested for allegedly transporting illegal aliens

EAGLE PASS, Texas — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents brought a Carrizo Springs man before a Del Rio federal magistrate for his initial appearance on federal charges of allegedly transporting dozens of illegal aliens into the United States.

Francisco Garcia Jr., 32, a U.S. citizen, was arrested at his home without incident Thursday. ICE initiated the investigation after receiving a lead that Garcia may be transporting 20 to 30 aliens per week and charging each \$1,200 to \$1,700 depending on the individual's nationality. Agents suspect that Garcia had been in business for last few months.

"Human smuggling is a disgraceful crime that ICE continues to actively pursue," said Special Agent-in-Charge Alonzo Pena of the ICE office in San Antonio. "Smugglers have no regard for human dignity. They view people as profitable cargo. This is why ICE relentlessly pursues alien smugglers and their organizations, and then shuts them down."

ICE agents worked in conjunction with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Dimmit County Sheriff's office. This case is still under investigation.

This arrest of Garcia is part of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan by the Department of Homeland Security to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. Under SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country.

ICE has established a toll-free number for the public to report illegal activity. The number, 1-866-DHS-2-ICE, is monitored 24 hours per day.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.